

# Eastlake holds up on payment for countywide radio system

**Brandon Baker**

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Eastlake City Council withdrew a measure this week that would have initiated the city's payment for its part in the annual maintenance of a new, countywide radio system.

Had council passed the legislation, Mayor Ted Andrzejewski and finance director Michael Slocum would have entered an agreement with the Lake County Department of Telecommunications to pay nearly \$24,000 as part of the cost to maintain the system once it is implemented.

Slocum said an agreement will be reached in time, but the city still needs more information regarding billing of the maintenance fee and other factors.

"We're sharing in the cost, but what's up for discussion is the cost of the city's ongoing use of the backbone," he said. "The county has proposed this contract and we've asked for further information on it."

"I anticipate that we will resolve the issue, but haven't done it yet."

County Telecommunications Department Director Paul Stefanko said the total

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**Michael Slocum**

Eastlake finance director

cost of the system is more than \$10 million. Many communities have individually agreed to their part in the cost of the system's backbone, including Eastlake, which agreed to its \$68,000-plus portion earlier this year, Slocum said.

The backbone's existing balance is about \$881,000, Stefanko said. The county has received numerous grants this year that helped reduce the initial cost, including a \$429,000 Northern Border Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Dominion East Ohio has also kicked in about \$800,000.

Communities have been asked to purchase equipment that uses P125 technology. A new system is necessary because the software to run

the current system that is used countywide soon will become obsolete and no longer work.

Officials view incidents like the Fairport Harbor gas explosions in January as proof that a newly upgraded system is necessary. The first phase of the system's implementation is scheduled for late December, and will include all nonpublic safety radios, such as those used by schools, utilities, engineers and county departments.

The second phase would follow in January once officials verify that the new system is working effectively.

Stefanko said that he hopes to have all area school buses equipped with radios on the new system following Christmas break. In Eastlake, Slocum said there is still time to agree on maintenance costs.

"This is covering costs that are going to use next year, so we still have plenty of time," Slocum said of Eastlake. "We still have plenty of time, in my mind, to resolve this issue."

"When you're dealing with mutual aid, it becomes very important, but we're not there yet."

## Commissioners in action

by MARIAN  
MCMAHON

**LAKE COUNTY** - Lake County Commissioners Bob Aufdish, Dan Troy and Ray Sines meet at 10 a.m. most Thursdays, with some meetings at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, in the Commissioners' Chambers on the fourth floor of the Lake County Administration Building, 105 Main St., Painesville.

All meetings are open to the public. Requests to address the government board may be made at any board meeting or presented to the Commissioners' Office by calling Amy Elaszcz at (440) 350-2753.

The next meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 25 at 10 a.m.

At the Aug. 16 meeting, the following legislation was adopted:

### RESOLUTIONS: ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

- Resolution authorizing change order No. 1 - final to Hallmark Excavating, Inc. for the Mill Morr Culvert Replacement Contract.

### UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Resolution certifying the Lake County Department of Utilities unpaid sewer service, water, and administrative charges to the Lake County Auditor.

- Resolution establishing a fund to be known as Cedar Glen/Park Estates/Eastern

Tribune 8-26-11

Woodlands Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1 Project No. 333S with various revenue and appropriation lines and transferring cash.

Commissioner Dan Troy asked if this project was to help correct recent problems in the area.

"We videoed all the lines in the area and the critical ones have been identified," said Rick Martin, LCDU director.

- Resolution transferring appropriation from LCDU Water District contract projects to LCDU Water District purchased water.

- Resolution awarding a bid contract in the amount of \$276,550 to George Kountoupes Painting Co. for Orton Road Tank Painting Project No. 325-W for the Lake County Department of Utilities.

### JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving Lake County Department of Job and Family Services vouchers date of warrant Aug. 22, in the amount of \$327,968.65.

- Resolution appointing Michael W. Georger to the position of social services worker 3 in the Social Services Division of the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services, effective Aug. 29.

### COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement between the Lake County

Board of Commissioners and Cuyahoga County for the FY09 Interoperable Communication Grant Program, effective through Oct. 14.

### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving payment of bills as listed on the commissioners' approval journal in the amount of \$520,995.13.

- Resolution approving purchase orders as listed on the commissioners' purchase order approval journal in the amount of \$219,399.52.

- Resolution increasing appropriations for various non general fund accounts.

- Resolution transferring appropriations within various non general fund accounts.

### SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution congratulating Annie Nelson, Megan Muzic, Ryan Kearns, Tori Smith, Jaclyn Noonan, and Jake Bates declared 2011 Outstanding Youth by The Ohio State University Extension Office of Lake County.

### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Administrator Bill Margalis reported requests for proposals had been sent out for health care program administration since the contract with United Healthcare was coming to an end.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss collective bargaining.